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ON THE DIFFERENCES OF PLAN ALLEGED TO EXIST
BETWEEN CHURCHES OF AUSTIN CANONS AND THOSE
OF MONKS ; AND THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH
SUCH CHURCHES WERE PAROCHIAL.

By the Rev. J. F. HODGSON.

We now arrive at the fourth allegation :—"That they" (the Austin canons) "first built a choir without aisles and a transept ; after that their domestic offices ; and then the next thing they built was the nave." This fourth part of the subject will not, fortunately, detain us nearly so long as the three previous ones, since it contains but a single point open to controversy ; and as the answer to that point has, to a considerable extent, been given already, it need not be reproduced at much length here. The point in question is this :—That the canons built their choirs *without aisles* ; and I have undertaken to shew "that though the Austin canons, like the monks, naturally commenced with their choirs, working westwards to the naves, the assertion that those choirs, *collectively considered*, were aisleless, is untenable. Further, that though some of them, especially in the smaller and poorer churches, undoubtedly are so, so, too, are many, perhaps more, of those of the various orders of monks." Now, how little the canons, as a rule, had really to do with the erection of their churches in the first instance, I have already shewn at length in vol. xlii, pp. 440-468. And, what is more to the purpose, is the fact that it was the choir with which the founders—who were in so vast a proportion the real builders of their churches—were more especially concerned. Having built this portion of the church, and so provided for the regular performance of divine service, the rest could "bide its time," waiting for the gradual accumulation of funds and such external benefactions as might accrue. The subject of aisled or aisleless choirs then, would in almost all cases depend for its solution primarily on the will of the founders ; the canons for the most part, probably, having no more to do with the dimensions or arrangement of the church than with the extent of the endowment—upon which such particulars would necessarily in great measure, depend. Their position, indeed, would differ little, if at all, from that of the inmates of any other almshouse or charitable institution, ancient or modern ; they would simply take such benefit of sustenance and general accommodation as the founder thought fit to provide for them, and which, in every case, would be just according to circumstance. Afterwards, when they had means of their own, and such independency as flowed therefrom, their case was different. As practically free agents, they could then build, alter, pull down, and rebuild as inclination prompted and means allowed ; and we have abundant proof, all the country over, what good use they made of their opportunities. But at

first they were not their own masters, and at times, probably—in respect of their churches and other offices—would realize the truth of the proverb that “beggars must not be choosers.” The founder, who “paid the piper,” not unnaturally “named the time,” and, “genteel” or otherwise, they had no choice but dance to it. Considering how slender the endowments, and few the number of canons in so many of their houses were, aisled choirs are surely among the very last things we should expect to meet with, nor, so far as I can see, is there any reason to suppose that, under similar circumstances, there was the least difference of arrangement in this respect between the churches of canons and those of monks. In both, naturally, it would be one of simple convenience, and I cannot but think it would need much ingenuity to shew that what was convenient in one case could be ought else in the other. In the larger and more highly developed churches of both orders, there is certainly no difference of plan observable in any respect ; neither, as we have already seen, is there in the smaller ones. I have already instanced, as will be remembered—merely from such examples as I have been able to make myself acquainted with—no fewer than one hundred and fourteen Benedictine churches, usually of the smaller class, which were either only one aisled or aisleless ; and I have no doubt whatever that a large proportion of the smaller and poorer churches of canons, of which “we cannot now speak particularly,” will be found to answer the same description. Both monks and canons alike had, in such matters, “to cut their coat according to the cloth”—not “after the lust of the eye.” That a considerable proportion of choirs of canons’ churches then—like those of the Benedictines—were aisleless, I made no manner of doubt about whatever. Such, among others, were those of Bamburg, Beeston Regis—a beautiful arcaded example—Bolton, Brinkburn, Bruton—a church of monks before it became one of canons—Bourne, Chacombe, Chetwood, Chipley (apparently), Calk (most likely), Carham, Flanesford, Gresley, Hartland, Haughmond, Haverford-west, Kirkby Beler, Laund, Letheringham, Maxstoke, Ovingham, S. Mary de Pratis Leicester, South Kyme, Staverdale, Studley, Sheringham, Ulverscroft, and Westacre. To these might doubtless be added many more, judging solely from the smallness and poverty of their several foundations ; but I give as many as I can speak to positively. So large a number, however, have either perished, or are so fragmentary—and therefore little known and difficult to acquire information about—that I can say nothing whatever for certain, either as to their plan or dimensions. But it is evident that foundations able to maintain no more than three or four canons would need only very small chapels for their accommodation ; and even when more amply endowed, and double that number of inmates existed, aisles, either to nave or choir, must have been very much in the nature of a superfluity. There can indeed, I think, be no reasonable doubt but that by far the larger proportion of the choirs in the smaller houses were without aisles, exactly as those of the Benedictines, under similar circumstances, were also without aisles. But that the choirs of canons’ churches were collectively or systematically aisleless is another matter, and, as I have said, altogether untenable. It is unfortunate, no doubt, for purposes of classification, that our knowledge of these churches should be so scanty ; yet, scanty as it is, it is quite sufficient to give us a fair idea of them as a whole, and refute the assertion that their choirs were generally aisleless. Viewed collectively

besides the smaller, and more or less aisleless examples, we find many others aisled just like those of similar character belonging to the monks ; while not a few—of vast size and richness—exhibit the monastic plan in its highest and fullest development. And it is not without significance, that the very first church which the order, even while yet unrecognized as such, possessed in England, viz., that of SS. Julian and Botolph, at Colchester, should have been of this last description. As to its choir that, I believe, is now destroyed, at least, to the surface of the ground ; but the plan of the rest affords the surest indication that, like the nave, it had both north and south aisles. At any rate, if such were not the case, it must have been unique among three towered English churches, for not only were there a central and two western towers, but the latter stood clear of the aisles as at Wells and originally at Ripon—thus forming a species of western transept. Then we have—

CHRIST CHURCH PRIORY CHURCH IN LONDON, which, if not the next built, was one of the very earliest of the order, and which had doubtless also an aisled choir, for it is said to have “passed all the Priories in London and Middlesex,” and that of the Franciscans, of which we have the most copious description, and which was of extreme magnificence, was certainly aisled.

AT WALTHAM ABBEY CHURCH, the choir—though those of Harold, and of the 13th century, which possibly supplanted an intermediate Norman one, are now destroyed—must, I imagine judging from the plan of the church which, like that at Colchester, comprised three towers, have been also an aisled one. What new light, if any, the latest explorations there may have thrown upon the subject, I cannot, however, say.

WORKSOP PRIORY CHURCH, founded in the third year of Hen. 1st, had undoubtedly an aisled choir of very large dimensions, which, like that of Peterborough, terminated in a central apse.

CARLISLE PRIORY CHURCH had also, like that of Worksop, aisles to the choir from the very first, for on the south side, the Norman arch of entrance from the transept still exists.

ST. MARY OVERY PRIORY CHURCH, SOUTHWARK, founded about 1107, though in a great measure rebuilt in the 13th century, had also probably from the first an aisled choir, the scale of the Norman work in the noble nave arcades seeming to indicate, and indeed require the existence of similar features eastwards. Of the splendidly rebuilt 13th century aisled choir of five bays, at any rate, there can be no doubt whatever.

THE CHOIR OF BARNWELL PRIORY CHURCH, founded about 1112—a building “mire pulchritudinis, et ponderosi operis”—would also, pretty certainly, be an aisled one.

THURGARTON PRIORY CHURCH, founded circa 1120—a magnificent three towered building—had again, as there is every reason to think, an aisled choir from the first.

AT KIRKHAM PRIORY CHURCH, built by the founders, Walter L'Espece

and Adeline his wife in 1121, the choir—whatever its primitive character may have been—has given place to a later, and certainly an aisled one.

LEEDS PRIORY CHURCH, founded circa 1119, and said to have rivalled some of our cathedrals in magnitude, must in such case, it would seem, have had aisles to its choir. Any information respecting this interesting church seems very difficult to obtain however, and my own efforts in that direction have, so far, proved singularly unsuccessful.

DUNSTABLE PRIORY CHURCH, built by King Hen. 1st sometime after 1131, had certainly an aisled choir from its first foundation. This, being the monastic part of the dual church, however, has since been destroyed.

OSENEY ABBEY CHURCH, built by Robert D'Oilei in 1129, and erected into a cathedral by Hen. VIII. in 1542, had also, we may believe, a complete choir with aisles. Nothing definite respecting it, however, is now, I believe, known.

LILleshull ABBEY CHURCH, built about 1145, had, *according to Walcott*, a choir whose aisles were separated from it, not by arcades, as usual, but by solid walls, as at Rochester, Bradsole, St. Albans, &c.

S. BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT PRIORY CHURCH, LONDON.—The choir of this church, built by Rahere in 1123—a secularized portion of which has happily just been rescued from further profanation—still remains, perhaps, the most perfect example of its class extant. It is four bays in length, with north and south aisles, and an aisled apse of seven bays, all of the original construction. The large Lady chapel to the east—of nearly the same length as the choir itself, and which has also been rescued—is an Early English addition.

CHRIST CHURCH TWYNEHAM, PRIORY CHURCH.—This noble church—still happily entire—has had its original Norman choir rebuilt in a late, but very vigorous Perpendicular style. That the original choir had aisles like the present one, is, however, beyond a doubt—the Norman apsidal chapels of each limb of the transept being placed, on account of their presence, at the very extremity.

S. AUGUSTINE'S PRIORY, NOW CATHEDRAL CHURCH, BRISTOL, had also aisles to its original Norman choir, as well as to its present 14th century one. This is shewn, among other things, by the elder Lady chapel of Early English date—which lies east of the north transept—being built against a portion of the external wall of the Norman choir aisle: the latter is still left, and forms the south wall of that chapel.

CARTMEL PRIORY CHURCH, founded by William Marshall the elder in 1188 (for an illustrated account of which see vol. xxvii, pp. 81-91, of this *Journal*), has the original Transitional arcades of its choir aisles still perfectly preserved. The nave is also fully aisled.

AT LANERCOST PRIORY CHURCH, founded inter 1164-9, the original aisled choir—some thirty years later in date—is by far the finest and

most striking feature in the building. Though ruined, it is still in wonderfully perfect preservation.

HEXHAM PRIORY CHURCH has its magnificent aisled choir—of the very earliest pointed work—also still extant. It is six bays in length, and of very rich and massive character throughout.

S. JOHN'S, CHESTER, a church of secular canons, of early Norman construction, had from the very first both north and south aisles to the choir. They were each of four bays, but are now almost wholly destroyed.

SOUTHWELL COLLEGIATE, NOW CATHEDRAL CHURCH, at present distinguished for its singularly rich and spacious aisled choir of the 13th century, had its original Norman choir also aisled, as is shewn by the contemporary entrance arches still to be seen in either limb of the transept.

RIPON MINSTER, built by Archbishop Roger de Pont l'Eveque, 1154-81, though its original nave was aisleless, had a fine aisled choir prepared for vaulting from the first. By the time the clerestory was reached, however, the original intention was abandoned, and the plan so far modified as to fit it for a wooden roof instead. Singularly enough, among all the writers on the Minster, including the late Mr. Walbran, Sir G. G. Scott, and Mr. King, in Murray's Handbooks, this original design, and its remarkable suppression, seems never to have been mentioned, or even noticed. And yet, the clustered vaulting shafts standing—in a manner, at once so contrary to English practice, and so peculiarly French—with their bases planted on the capitals of the main piers, and arranged to carry the transverse, diagonal, and wall ribs, are all there, provided with capitals at the base line of the clerestory,—and doing nothing.

WIMBORNE MINSTER, though on a very small scale, had also short Norman aisles to its original choir. Of these the remains may still be seen on either side. At a later date both the choir and its aisles were more than doubled in length.

AT BODMIN PRIORY CHURCH, into which canons of S. Austin were introduced by William Warlewast, Bishop of Exeter in 1120, the choir, as we learn from William of Worcester's measurements, had both north and south aisles. Its width appears to have been about fifty feet.

ST. GERMAN'S PRIORY CHURCH, of which only the nave and two western towers now remain, is one of those which would almost certainly have had an aisled choir. It seems, however, to have been more or less completely destroyed after the suppression.

S. FRIDESWIDE'S PRIORY, NOW CATHEDRAL CHURCH, OXFORD.—In this well-known example the beautiful aisled choir of Transitional character still remains perfect. Both nave and transept are also double aisled.

BRIDLINGTON PRIORY CHURCH.—As at S. German's, though the nave

and its western towers have escaped, being parochial, the choir has perished utterly. Nevertheless, its dimensions have been pretty accurately recorded. It was of the original construction—whether late Norman or Early English does not clearly appear—and of vast size, extending no less than a hundred and fifty feet east of the transept to the base of the farthest pillar that has been discovered. “In the north aisle of the choir were eleven narrow windows and similar ones in the south aisle, every one of them ‘of one lyghte,’ except two windows on the south with ‘five lyghtes apiece.’ In the east end of the choir were eleven windows ‘ten of one lyghte and one of three lyghtes.’” East of the magnificent reredos, which was of great height, richly wrought, and as richly gilded, was the shrine of S. John—“placed in a fair chapel on high, having on either side a stair of stone for to go and come by,” and underneath were five chapels furnished with their respective altars and images. From this last mentioned particular, it would seem that besides north and south aisles, the choir was also furnished with an eastern one. There were a central and two western towers, and the whole length of the church was about 350 feet, with a breadth across the aisles of 68, and a height of about 70 feet.

BEVERLEY MINSTER still preserves its choir as first built. It consists of four bays, with north and south aisles; an eastern transept with eastern chapels; and east of these a Lady chapel—all of the same height, stone vaulted, and of the finest thirteenth century character.

THORNTON ABBEY CHURCH, LINCOLNSHIRE, better known perhaps for its interesting fortifications, and beautiful entrance gateway tower than anything else, had a very fine large aisled choir. Like all the rest of the church it was a re-building; the whole of the fabric, as commenced by the founder, William le Gros, Earl of Albemarle, in 1139—on whatever plan—having been afterwards removed.

LITTLE DUNMOW PRIORY CHURCH.—This church, which was finished two years before the Austin canons either entered it or were intended to do so, in 1106, must have had its ordinary parochial choir removed and a new one of great size and splendour built for their accommodation before the end of the century—circa. 1186-90. All that now remains of this, however, is the blocked arcade of the south aisle—of rich Transitional work—and the south wall, which has again been re-built in the fourteenth century, not improbably by the architect of the Lady chapel at Ely.

NEWARK PRIORY CHURCH, SUSSEX, according to *Mr. Walcott's account*, had aisles to the choir and nave all shut off by solid walling. Reckoning the outer chapels of the transepts, the choir—if his plan can be accepted—might almost be said to be five aisled. The case is certainly curious, if true.

BLACKMORE PRIORY CHURCH.—Of this church—which, being also parochial, is perfectly preserved—there is a plan in Buckler's churches of Essex. The choir and nave, which are of the same breadth, are aisled throughout.

ROYSTON PRIORY CHURCH.—The choir, together with the tower, are all

that now remains of Royston church, the western parts having been destroyed shortly after the suppression. It has both north and south aisles.

BREEDON PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTERSHIRE.—As at Royston, the choir with its aisles and the tower, constitute nearly the sole remains of this once fine church.

WALSINGHAM PRIORY CHURCH.—The whole fabric of this noble church is later than the date of its foundation, and must, therefore, in part, at least, have been rebuilt. But it is aisled throughout, in the choir as well as in the nave.

S. MARTIN'S PRIORY CHURCH, DOVER.—I introduce this church—which eventually became one of the Benedictines—here, because it was planned, and in great part built, for the use of Austin canons by one who had himself been an Austin canon, William de Corbeuil, archbishop of Canterbury. The choir had north and south aisles of three bays, each terminating in a semi-circular apse which formed a fourth bay eastwards. Beyond these the central choir was projected one bay further eastward still, and finished rectangularly, with massive angle turrets. The transept had double apsidal chapels on either side the crossing, similar in character to those of the choir aisles, the nave also had north and south aisles. A more perfectly developed monastic church could not be imagined, and it was of very early date, being founded in 1130.

HOLLAND, OR UPHOLLAND PRIORY CHURCH.—This fine church which, like S. Martin's, Dover, was built for canons, was afterwards, in 1318, made over to Benedictine monks. It is of moderate dimensions and quite perfect, consisting of a low western tower and a central and two side aisles, under a single roof. The arcades are very grand and lofty, and the whole building, lighted as it is throughout with its original large geometrical windows, divided by massive buttresses, is very striking and impressive.

HOWDEN COLLEGIATE CHURCH.—Fine as this church is as a whole, yet no part of it can compare with its magnificent aisled and clerestoried choir, which was vaulted throughout. Of its class and period—early flowing pointed—it would be hard to find a nobler work.

DORCHESTER ABBEY CHURCH.—As to the plan of the original Norman choir of this singular, but fine church, there is some uncertainty. A fragment of a north aisle, with a western door to the cloister, still exists, and seems, therefore, to point to the former existence of a like aisle southwards; but all traces of this—owing to the erection of a much broader aisle at a later period—have, if it ever existed, now disappeared. The beautiful aisled choir of decorated date, however, is now the chief feature of the church.

REPTON PRIORY CHURCH.—Though the original choir of this church was undoubtedly aisleless, I include it here because it was distinctly the work, not of the canons, but of the foundress; the canons, as soon as they were in a position to do so, rebuilding both it and the nave with aisles.

GUISBOROUGH PRIORY CHURCH.—This was undoubtedly the grandest church that the Austin canons possessed either at home or abroad, being of great richness, three towered, and no less than 380 feet in length. But its chief glory lay in its vast aisled choir—a work absolutely unmatched in sublime perfection by any other in the kingdom, whether monastic or cathedral. Little as now remains, unfortunately, to witness to its former majesty, there is yet quite enough to shew that for monumental grandeur, perfection of form, and richness and delicacy of detail, it was literally without a rival.

Though far from being even approximately complete, the above list of Austin canons churches having aisled choirs—which comprises all I can at present adduce—may yet suffice to shew how far from accurate it is to speak of them collectively or generically as aisleless. Necessarily imperfect as the list is however, it contains—exclusive of the Scotch examples of Holyrood and Jedburgh, and the few belonging to the churches of secular canons mentioned in it—no fewer than thirty-five illustrations of English Augustinian churches, the choirs of which were aisled:—that is to say, close upon one sixth of their number all told. But that this number comes very far short of the actual one may be confidently affirmed. Judging from such examples only as I have been able to give an account of, in connection with the annual incomes of the houses to which they severally belonged, there are no less than two thirds as many more which might reasonably be added; their respective foundations all possessing revenues ranging between two hundred, and nineteen hundred pounds a year, and upwards, and whose churches therefore could hardly fail to be on a scale of corresponding completeness. Such were those of Pentney, Huntingdon, Nostell, S. James, Northampton, Llanthony in Gloucestershire, Taunton, Launceston, Kenilworth, Merton, Nutley, Chich S. Osyth, Ixworth, Newburgh, Bradenstoke, Wigmore, Derley, Newenham Beds, Buttley, Dertford, Missenden, and Syon—twenty-one in all, the choirs of whose churches if aisled, as there is every reason to suppose most of them were, would bring up the number at once to above one fourth. How many belonging to houses of under two hundred a year income like Breedon, Blackmore and Lancerost for example, might also, like them, have aisled choirs, it were needless to speculate about; though that there were such, and not a few either, can hardly be doubted. The question before us, however, it will be remembered, is not as to the exact proportion of aisleless choirs in the churches of canons, but whether there were any with aisled choirs at all; and this, I think, has been sufficiently disposed of, if only by the enumeration of such as are still actually in existence, and about which there can be no dispute. But, to shew that the choirs of many canons' churches were aisled was only part of my undertaking. It was to shew further that aisleless choirs were by no means confined to churches of that class, but were to be found also, and perhaps more extensively, in those of the monks. How far, I cannot, of course, pretend to say exactly, seeing that—just as with the churches of canons—there are such vast numbers of which it is impossible to obtain any sort of information; but, even with the limited opportunities at my command I am able to lay before my readers no fewer than a hundred and sixty examples of Benedictine churches whose choirs were aisleless; or—close upon three-fourths of all the Austin canons churches put together. They are as follows:—

SOME BENEDICTINE AND OTHER CHURCHES OF MONKS, &C., HAVING AISLELESS CHOIRS.

Aldeby Priory Church, Norfolk.—Benedictine.

Amesbury Abbey Church, Wiltshire.—Benedictine.

Andover Alien Priory Church, Hampshire.—Benedictine. Chancel with north chapel only.

Arthington Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Cluniac.

Andwell Alien Priory Church, Hampshire.—Cistercian.

Astley Alien Priory Church, Worcestershire.—Benedictine.

Avebury Alien Priory Church, Wiltshire.—Benedictine.

Allerton Mauleverer Priory Church: a cell to Holy Trinity Priory, York.—Benedictine.

“The cruciform Church of Allerton Mauleverer has aisles to the nave, but none to the chancel. Originally ‘S. Martin’ has been a beautiful church, and there was at one time some choice stained glass in the windows, but last century’s restoration of it was not a successful one.”—Letter of the Rev. W. Valentine, Vicar.

Aucot Priory Church, Warwickshire: a cell to the Priory of Great Malvern.—Benedictine.

Bardsey Abbey Church, Caernarvonshire.—Benedictine.

Barrow Gurney Priory Church, Somersetshire.—Benedictine.

Baysdale Priory Church, Yorkshire.—Cistercian.

Beauley Priory Church, Rosshire.—Cistercian.

S. Bee’s Priory Church, Cumberland.—Benedictine.

Buckland Abbey Church, Devonshire.—Cistercian.

Bradwell Priory Church, Buckinghamshire.—Benedictine.

Barwell Priory Church, Lincolnshire.—Benedictine.

Buildwas Abbey Church, Shropshire.—Cistercian.

Bristol, S. James’ Priory Church, Somersetshire.—Benedictine.

Bristol, Dominican Church: William of Worcester says of this church:—

“*Longitudo chori ecclesie fratrum predicatorum continet 26 virgas vel 44 gressus. Latitudo chori continet 8 virgas vel 58 gressus. Latitudo ejusdem continet 21 virgas vel 44 gressus.*” Bristol vol. of the Institute, p. 144. As W. of Worcester’s “*gressus*” contained about 20 inches, it would seem that the building consisted of a nave with two broad aisles, and an aisleless choir—as was usual in such churches—the latter being about 73 feet in length, by 23 in breadth.

Bristol, Franciscan, or Grey Friars’ Church. Of this church William of Worcester says:—“*Chorus excelsie continet in longitudine 28 virgas sive 50 gressus. Latitudo chori continet 9 virgas sive 18 gressus. Longitudo navis dictae ecclesie cum duabus magnis alis continet 28 virgas sive 50 gressus. Latitudo dictae navis cum duabus alis continet 27 virgas sive 52 gressus.*” &c. From which we learn that it consisted of a nave with two aisles, about 83 feet in length by $86\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth; the nave being probably about 32 feet, and the aisles 27 feet wide each; with a choir of the Religious, of the same length as the nave, or 83 feet, and a width of about 30 feet—that is aisleless.

Bristol, S. Mary Magdalene Priory Church of Nuns.—Benedictine. William of Worcester’s measurements of this small and poor church are as follows:—“*Longitudo ecclesie religionum S. Mariae Magdalene continet 27 gressus cum cancella. Latitudo ejus continet 10 virgas (vel)*

20 gressus." That is to say, the church consisted of a nave and chancel, 45 feet in length in the full ; with a width—as it would seem—in the nave, perhaps, of 33 feet, and which therefore must have had a single side aisle. This single aisle might possibly also be continued as a chapel along one side of the choir.

Brecon Priory Church.—Benedictine. A fine cruciform church with a long aisleless choir, designed for vaulting. Judging from the plan given in vol. xi. of this Journal, p. 145, it would seem more than probable that this was originally an aisleless church throughout ; for not only is the west wall of the north transept carried across the east end of the nave aisle, but both the north and south walls of the nave are continued solid for several feet westward of the crossing. The western-most bay also of the south aisle of the nave is aisleless. For views see *Archæological Journal*, vii., 26.

Bridgewater, Grey Friars' Church, Somersetshire.—William of Worcester says :—"Longitudo Ecclesie Fratrum Minorum de Bryggewater 120 steppys, et ejus latitudo 30 steppys, et latitudo Navis Ecclesie 14 steppys." Thus, the entire length of the church was about 200 feet ; and as 30 "steppys," or 50 feet would be too little for the breadth across a transept, we must necessarily understand the measurement to refer to the nave with its aisles, which latter would be about 14 feet broad each—a very usual and probable proportion. As usual in this class of churches, the choir would be of the same breadth as the nave—about 23 feet, and aisleless.

Bromfield Priory Church, Shropshire ; a cell to the Abbey of S. Peter, Gloucester.—Benedictine.

Bindon Abbey Church, Dorsetshire.—Cistercian. A fine cruciform church, with aisles to the nave ; and the usual short aisleless choir or sanctuary.

Cardigan Priory Church.—Benedictine.

Chepstow Priory Church, Monmouthshire.—Benedictine.

Canwell Priory Church, Staffordshire.—Benedictine.

Carisbrooke Alien Priory Church, Isle of Wight.—Benedictine.

Chester Priory Church of Nuns, Cheshire.—Benedictine. Chancel with one aisle, apparently like the nave.

Clynnock Vawr Abbey Church, Carnarvonshire.—Cistercian.

Cranbourne Priory Church, Dorsetshire.—Benedictine. "Cranbourne church is not cruciform, no aisles to chancel ; N. and S. aisles to nave, that in S. being very narrow, probably processional aisle from Priory house, which was on that side of the church."—Letter of the Rev. H. G. Roper, vicar.

Crossraguel Priory Church, Ayrshire.—Cistercian. Apsidal, with large traceried windows, the filling in, however, now destroyed.

Cimmer or Kimmer Abbey Church, Merionethshire.—Cistercian.

S. Cyriac and S. Juliet Priory Church, Cornwall.—Clunian.

Cogges Alien Priory Church, Oxfordshire.—Benedictine.

Coldingham Priory Church, Berwickshire ; a cell to the Cathedral Priory Church of Durham.—Benedictine.

Cleeve Abbey Church, Somersetshire.—Cistercian, of the usual type.

Cannington Priory Church of Nuns, Somersetshire.—Benedictine.

Calder Abbey Church, Cumberland.—Cistercian.

Davington Priory Church of Nuns, Kent.—Benedictine.

Deerhurst Abbey, afterwards Alien Priory Church, Gloucestershire.—Benedictine.

Deeping S. James Priory Church, Lincolnshire ; a cell to the Abbey of Thorney.—Benedictine. "There is no chancel arch" (the church consists of a double nave) "and there appears no signs of one. The south aisle" (or nave) "extends to half of the chancel ; altogether it is a most curious church and most interesting, and very large, portions of it more in cathedral than in parish church style."—Letter of the Rev. I. George, vicar.

Dudley Priory Church, Staffordshire.—Cluniac.

Dunster Priory Church, Somersetshire.—Benedictine. Choir originally aisleless.

Esholt Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Cistercian.

Everdon Alien Priory Church, Northamptonshire ; a cell to the Abbey of Bernay.—"The nave has north and south aisles, but the chancel has none. There are monumental slabs of some of the Priors in the floors of the church"—Letter of the Rev. W. L. Hardisty, vicar.

Ewenny Priory Church, Glamorganshire.—Benedictine.

Elstow Priory Church, Bedfordshire.—Benedictine.

Ellerton Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Cistercian.

Edith Weston Alien Priory Church, Rutlandshire.—Benedictine. "The present chancel was only built in 1866, but the old chancel had no aisles, tho' an arch on each side walled up ; whether or no they had ever been open I cannot say, but for various reasons, which I need not now trouble you with, I think not."—Letter of the late Rev. C. H. Lucas, vicar.

Ecclesfield Alien Priory Church, Yorkshire.—Carthusian. A simple aisleless chapel.

Ewyas Harold Priory Church, Herefordshire.—Benedictine.

Easebourne Priory Church of Nuns, Suffolk.—Benedictine.

Finchale Priory Church, Durham.—Benedictine. The choir of this fine and interesting thirteenth century church was aisled originally, except the eastern part or sanctuary, which from the first was aisleless. About the middle of the fourteenth century the aisles of the choir and nave were removed, the arcades filled up, and traceried windows inserted beneath the arches.

Frampton Alien Priory Church, Dorsetshire.—Benedictine. "A cruciform church with aisles to the nave ; aisleless chancel."—Letter of the Rev. B. C. Macdonald, vicar.

Furness Abbey Church, Lancashire.—Cistercian. A somewhat deep but aisleless choir.

Fountains Abbey Church, Yorkshire.—Cistercian. Here, as in other churches of the order, the choir, previous to its rebuilding on a vastly enlarged scale in the thirteenth century, was short and aisleless.

Fairwell Priory Church of Nuns, Staffordshire.—Benedictine. The body of this church was re-built of brick during the last century. The old stone chancel, however, remains, and is aisleless.

Faringdon Priory Church, Berkshire, a small cell to the Abbey of Beaulieu, Hampshire. Cistercian.

Gloucester, church of the Friars Preachers, or Dominicans.

Gloucester, church of the Friars Minors, or Franciscans.

Grosmont Alien Priory Church, Yorkshire.—Order of Grammont.

Gothland Priory Church, Yorkshire ; a cell to the Abbey of Whitby.—Benedictine. This was a very small cell—originally a Hermitage—the chapel of which was standing in Burton's time,

Hatfield Peverell Priory Church, Essex.—Benedictine.

Hordale Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Benedictine.

Horkesley Little, Priory Church, Essex.—Cluniac.

Hinckley Alien Priory Church, Leicestershire.—Benedictine. Western tower and spire ; nave with north and south aisles ; aisle-transept ; and aisleless chancel.

Hulne Abbey Church, Northumberland.—Carmelite.

Harley Priory Church, Berkshire.—Benedictine.

Hackness Priory Church, Yorkshire ; a cell to the Abbey of Whitby.—Benedictine.

S. Helen's Priory Church of Nuns, London.—Benedictine.

Hereford, S. Peter's Priory Church ; a cell to the Abbey of S. Peter, Gloucester.—Benedictine. Aisleless chancel, with tower and Lady chapel to the south of it.

Halystane Priory Church of Nuns, Northumberland.—Benedictine. A simple aisleless nave, and aisleless chancel.

Jarrow Abbey, afterwards Priory church ; a cell to the Cathedral Priory of Durham.—Benedictine.

Iniscourcey Abbey Church, Down.—Cistercian.

Isleham Alien Priory Church, Cambridgeshire.—Benedictine.

Jerpoint Abbey Church, Kilkenny.—Cistercian.

Ipplepen Alien Priory Church, Devonshire.—Benedictine. "A handsome western tower, 100 feet high ; nave with north and south aisles ; and aisleless chancel." Letter of the Rev. R. Harris, vicar.

Ivinghoe Priory Church of Nuns, Buckinghamshire.—Benedictine. This was a very small and poor house, containing at the Dissolution, five nuns only, whose annual income amounted in the clear to no more than £14 3s. 1d. The chapel and other buildings seem to have remained almost entire down to the middle of the last century. Cole says :—"The parlour and hall are not bad buildings . . . Behind them stood the church, or chapel." The tower "was about twelve feet square, and the church adjoined to it, or rather stood on one side, and opened into the Priory house by an arch which is yet visible."

Kidwelly Priory Church, Carmarthenshire.—Benedictine.

Kirklees Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Cistercian.

Kirkstall Abbey Church, Yorkshire.—Cistercian.

Kirkstead Abbey Church, Lincolnshire.—Cistercian.

Kington S. Michael Priory Church of Nuns, Wiltshire.—Benedictine. The buildings of this Priory are said to have surrounded a small square court, on the north side of which was the chapel, some arches of the latter, with the other buildings being still visible in the early part of this century. Aubrey says that, in his day, "neither glass, chancel nor monument remained in the chapel."

Lapley Alien Priory Church, Staffordshire.—Benedictine.

Lindores Abbey Church, Perthshire.—Tironensian.

Loders Alien Priory Church, Dorsetshire.—Benedictine.

Lindisfarne Priory Church, Northumberland.—Benedictine. A large cruciform church with central tower ; nave with north and south aisles built in close imitation of those of the mother church of Durham ;—

aisleless transept with a single apsidal chapel in each limb, and an aisleless choir; the latter lengthened at a later period, precisely as that of Bolton Priory Church of Austin canons was. For several excellent views, see Billings's Durham County.

Long Bennington Alien Priory Church, Lincolnshire.—Cistercian. A cruciform church, with north and south aisles to the nave; and very large aisleless chancel, which still retains the Prior's seat.

Leominster, or Lyminster Alien Priory Church of Nuns, Sussex.—Benedictine.—“An aisleless chancel of remarkable length.” Letter of the Rev. E. Durnford, vicar.

Lynn Regis Grey Friars, or Franciscan Church, Norfolk.—The remains of this once fine building, which consist merely of the vaulted compartment or bay intervening between the nave and choir, surmounted by a lofty turret of open work, shew distinctly by the adjoining fragments of masonry, that the choir, as usual in the Dominican and Franciscan churches, was aisleless.

Lynn Regis, S. Margaret's Priory Church, Benedictine.

Lambley Priory Church of Nuns, Northumberland.—Benedictine. The site of this small house of six Nuns is now completely washed away by the Tyne, but its chapel, like others of the same sort, was doubtless small and aisleless.

Lammana Priory Church, Cornwall.—Benedictine. A small cell of two or three monks subject to the Abbey of Glastonbury; some slight remains of whose chapel are said still to exist.

Marlow Little, Priory Church, Buckinghamshire.—Benedictine.

Marrick Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Benedictine.

Minting Alien Priory Church, Lincolnshire.—Benedictine.

Minster Lovell Alien Priory Church, Oxfordshire.—Benedictine.

Monkwearmouth Abbey, afterwards Priory Church, Durham.—Benedictine.

Monkland Alien Priory Church, Herefordshire.—Benedictine.

Monk, or West Shirbourne Alien Priory Church, Hampshire.—Benedictine.

Mountgrace Priory Church, Yorkshire.—Carthusian.

Monkton Priory Church, Pembrokeshire.—Benedictine.

S. Michael's Mount Alien Priory Church, Cornwall.—Benedictine.

Monmouth Priory Church.—Benedictine. “The Church of S. Mary here was ruthlessly and utterly destroyed, leaving only the tower and spire, at the beginning of the last century.....I do not think there is anything to lead one to believe that the old church was cruciform, but it certainly had aisles to the nave, though not to the chancel.” Letter of the Rev. Wentworth Wilson, vicar.

Malpas Priory Church, Monmouthshire.—Cluniac.

Nunkeeling Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Benedictine.

Nunmonkton Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Benedictine.

Nuneaton Priory Church of Nuns, Warwickshire.—Benedictine.

Norwich, S. Andrew's Dominican Church. “This magnificent church, built by Sir Thomas Erpingham, is now divided between the townspeople for secular, and a Dutch congregation for religious, purposes; the one occupying the nave and aisles, the other the choir of the Friars. This kind of division seems to have been obtained long before the Dissolution; the nave having all along been occasionally lent to the inhabitants for

public purposes. In its entirety, this desecrated church is not less than 267 feet in length, the nave and western porch being 138 feet, the lower part of the tower (taken out of the western bay of the choir), 14 feet, the choir 100 feet, and the walls 15 feet. The choir, lighted by the splendid side windows of five 'days,' and an eastern one of seven, is almost shut off from the western parts—and aisles."—Archæological Association Journal, xiv. 120, and Plan.

Newton Longueville Alien Priory Church; a cell to the Abbey of S. Faith at Longueville.—Benedictine. "The present church has nave with north and south aisles; the north aisle being further extended into an aisle of the chancel, which is known locally as the New College Chancel to distinguish it from the Rector's Chancel." Letter of the Rev. H. C. Blagden, rector.

New, or Sweet Heart Abbey Church, Kircudbright.—Cistercian. "This noble church was founded by Devorgilla, widow of John Balliol, A.D. 1275. It is built altogether on the Benedictine plan; consisting of a nave of six bays with aisles; central tower; transepts with eastern chapels or rather aisles; and a well developed aisleless choir."—Billings's Scotland, iv. Plates.

Otterton Alien Priory Church, Devonshire.—Benedictine.

Pille Priory Church, Pembrokeshire.—Benedictine.

Penwortham Priory Church, Lancashire; a cell to the Abbey of Evesham.—Benedictine. "This church is not cruciform; it has no aisles to the chancel; it had no aisles to the nave until the year 1856, when N. and S. aisles were added."—Letter of the Rev. W. E. Rawstone, vicar.

Paisley Abbey Church, Renfrewshire.—Cluniac. A noble church, of which the nave, with its aisles, and a chapel to the east of the destroyed south transept alone remain perfect. The north transept and the choir, which was of great length—123 feet by 23—were aisleless. For views see Billings's Scotland, iv.

Preston Capes Priory Church, Northamptonshire.—Cluniac. "The church built" (or partly rebuilt) "in the fourteenth century, is not cruciform; it has aisles to the nave, none to the chancel."—Letter of the Rev. V. Knightley, vicar.

Richmond, Franciscan, or Grey Friars' Church, Yorkshire.

Richmond, Priory Church of S. Martin; a cell to the Abbey of S. Mary, York.—Benedictine. A small aisleless parallelogram of Norman date.

Rumburgh Priory Church, Suffolk.—Benedictine.

Redlingfield Priory Church of Nuns, Suffolk.—This is a simple aisleless parallelogram, like so many others of its class.

Roche Abbey Church, Yorkshire.—Cistercian. A once fine church of very severe type, with the usual aisleless Cistercian choir or sanctuary.

Sewardsley Priory Church of Nuns, Northamptonshire.—Cistercian.

Sompting Priory Church, Sussex.—Benedictine.

Stanley S. Leonard Priory Church, Gloucestershire.—Benedictine.

Sandwell Priory Church, Staffordshire.—Benedictine,

Spetsbury Alien Priory Church, Dorsetshire; a cell to the Abbey of Preaux.

Swine Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Cistercian.

Swavesey Alien Priory Church, Cambridgeshire.—Benedictine. It

consists of a western tower, nave with north and south aisles, and aisleless chancel with a Lady chapel attached to the south side. Plan kindly communicated by the vicar.

Sporle Alien Priory Church, Norfolk.—Benedictine. "There are aisles to the nave, and formerly a north aisle to the chancel, with a chapel at the east end." Letter of the Rev. F. Jones, vicar.

Stangate Priory Church, Essex; a cell to the Priory of Lewes.—Cluniac. "The church was, I should imagine, cruciform without aisles—the old roof is untouched—the transepts have, I should imagine, been destroyed when it was turned into a barn." Letter of the Rev. J. N. Parkins, vicar of Steeple.—From enclosed sketch ground-plan, one limb of the transept appears to be perfect, with indications of the other, the whole being aisleless.

Sheppey, Priory Church of Nuns at Minster.—Benedictine. An aisleless Saxon chancel and nave, to the south of which last, a second or lateral thirteenth century nave has been added. Arch. Journal, xl 54.

Snaith Priory Church; a cell to the Abbey of Selby, Yorkshire.—Benedictine. "It is not cruciform, though there are very short chantry chapels on each side which almost form small transepts, but it could not correctly be called cruciform... There are not aisles to the chancel, but there are two good sized chantry chapels, one on each side of the chancel (in addition to the two which form almost short transepts), that on the north side belonging to Lord Beaumont, the other, on the south, to Lord Downe." Letter of the Rev. Chas. Ed. Storrs.

Seton Priory Church of Nuns, Cumberland.—Benedictine. All vestiges of this building, as I learn from the vicar of Camerton—in which parish it was situate—have long since disappeared; though the Editors of the *Monasticon* say—"There are some remains of the priory chapel with lancet windows." The house was a very poor one—the clear annual income amounting to no more than £12 12s. 0½d.—and the "chapel" was doubtless an aisleless one, as usual.

Tavistock Abbey Church, Devonshire.—Benedictine.

Thetford Priory Church of Nuns, Norfolk.—Benedictine.

Toft Monks Alien Priory Church, Norfolk.—Benedictine.

Thicket, or Thickhead Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Benedictine.

Tynemouth Priory Church, Northumberland; a cell to the Abbey of S. Alban's.—Benedictine. The eastern, or monastic part of this compound church has a choir, or sanctuary—which is of three bays in depth, and by far the finest portion of it—richly vaulted with stone and aisleless. The western part, which was aisled, had an open timbered roof only.

Tykeford Priory Church, Buckinghamshire.—Cluniac.

Uphavon Alien Priory Church, Wiltshire.—Benedictine.

Usk Priory Church of Nuns, Monmouthshire.—Benedictine.

Valle Crucis Abbey Church, Denbighshire.—Cistercian.

Wangford, or Reydon S. Peter's Priory Church, Suffolk.—Cluniac.

West Mersey Alien Priory Church, Essex.—Benedictine.

Weedon Pinkney Alien Priory Church, Northamptonshire.—Benedictine.

Wilmington Alien Priory Church, Sussex.—Benedictine.

Wykeham Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Cistercian.

Wilberfoss Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Benedictine.

Wootton Wawen Alien Priory Church, Warwickshire.—Benedictine.

Ware Alien Priory Church, Hertfordshire.—Benedictine.

Wareham Alien Priory Church ; a cell to the Abbey of Lira.—Benedictine. Nave with north and south aisles, western tower, and aisleless chancel, with small attached chapel at south-east. Letter of vicar of Lady S. Mary, Wareham.

Wilton Abbey Church of Nuns, Wiltshire.—Benedictine.

Walsingham, Franciscan Church, Norfolk. Like that of the Dominicans at Norwich, this church consisted of a nave with north and south aisles, and a long choir—the latter of seven bays, and aisleless.

Wix, or Weekes Priory Church of Nuns, Essex.—Benedictine.

Warmington Alien Priory Church, Warwickshire.—Benedictine. This Alien Priory stood, according to tradition, about the centre of the village, in a field just below the church, which is reached by a flight of thirty-four steps. The church, which formed part of the endowment of the mother house of Preaux, and which served probably as that of the Priory as well as the parish, consists of a western tower, nave with aisles under separate gabled roofs, and an aisleless chancel. Letter of the Rev. W. H. Taylor, vicar.

Yeddingham Priory Church of Nuns, Yorkshire.—Benedictine.

Thus may we see by the irrefragable testimony of existing, and other instances, how erroneous is the idea that the Choirs of Austin Canons' Churches as a class were without aisles ; or, that the absence of such features in certain of them constitutes a special peculiarity, seeing that among those of the Benedictine and mendicant orders, as many as a hundred and sixty—and those but a portion of the full number—may certainly be specified as falling under the same category.

(To be continued.)